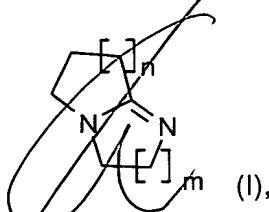


We claim:

1. A process for preparing β -alkoxynitriles by reacting
5 α,β -unsaturated nitriles with monohydric, dihydric or
trihydric alcohols in the presence of basic catalysts at from
-20 to +200°C, which comprises using a diazabicycloalkene
catalyst of the formula I

10



(I),

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where from 1 to 4 hydrogen atoms may be independently replaced by the radicals R¹ to R⁴, in which case R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are each C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, C₆₋₂₀-aryl or C₇₋₂₀-arylalkyl, and

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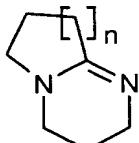
n and m are each an integer from 1 to 6.

6

in the first step

2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst used is
a diazabicycloalkene of the formula Ia

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(Ia),

on the diazabicycloalkene nucleus

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where from 1 to 4 hydrogen atoms may be independently replaced by the radicals R¹ to R⁴, in which case R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are each C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, C₆₋₂₀-aryl or C₇₋₂₀-arylalkyl, and

n is an integer from 1 to 3.

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3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst used is
1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN), 1,5-diazabicyclo-[4.4.0]dec-5-ene (DBD) or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).

6

in the first step

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4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount of from 0.05 to 5% by weight, based on the alcohol.

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in the first step

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5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at from 25 to 100°C.

of the first step

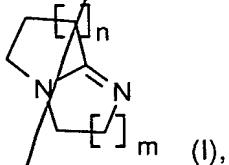
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6. A process for preparing γ -alkoxyamines by

- 5
a) reaction of α, β -unsaturated nitriles with monohydric, dihydric or trihydric alcohols in the presence of basic catalysts at from -20 to +200°C to form β -alkoxynitriles, and
b) subsequent hydrogenation of the β -alkoxynitriles in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst,

10 which comprises using in the first step a diazabicycloalkene catalyst of the formula I as set forth in claim 1

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20 where from 1 to 4 hydrogen atoms may be independently replaced by the radicals R¹ to R⁴, in which case R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are each C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, C₆₋₂₀-aryl or C₇₋₂₀-arylalkyl, and
25 n and m are each an integer from 1 to 6, and effecting the hydrogenation in the second step in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst and of the catalyst of the formula I.

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